

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**  
**No. 24-1191V**

NIKKI DEARY,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 12, 2025

*Christopher E. Hultquist, Law Office of Christopher E. Hultquist, Esq., Providence RI, for Petitioner.*

*Camille Jordan Webster, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

**DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On August 5, 2024, Nikki Deary filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) following an influenza vaccination she received on September 14, 2022. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 10, 2025, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On June 11, 2025, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$111,085.00, comprised of \$110,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,085.00 for past unreimbursed expenses. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees

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<sup>1</sup> Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$111,085.00, comprised of \$110,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,085.00 for past unreimbursed expenses, to be paid through an ACH deposit to Petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
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No. 24-1191V

Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran  
ECF

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On August 4, 2024, Nikki Deary (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), alleging that she suffered a Table shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as the result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccination received on September 14, 2022.<sup>1</sup> Petition at 1. On June 9, 2025, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a SIRVA Table injury, and on June 10, 2025, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 23; ECF No. 24.

**I. Items of Compensation**

**A. Pain and Suffering**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded **\$110,000.00** in pain and suffering.

*See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

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<sup>1</sup> Petitioner filed an amended petition on January 6, 2025; it appears no substantive changes were made in the amended petition, rather the petition was amended to add citations to the referenced exhibits. *See* ECF No. 13.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that she incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to her vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$1,085.00. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:

A lump sum payment of **\$111,085.00** to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

BRETT A. SHUMATE  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Director  
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/s/CAMILLE J. WEBSTER

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Dated: June 11, 2025